



## Friends of the Handicapped award the proceeds of their fundraising efforts for 2007

“The Friends of the Handicapped” (FOTH) is a group of long time and long term island visitors that have forged a bond with Aruba and its people over the years. Most of them own several weeks at the Aruba Beach Club or Casa Del Mar Resorts and spend the majority of their winter in Aruba. While on the island, they devote a great deal of their time to fund raising activities such as the Superbowl Sunday Lottery and the Valentine’s Day Sweetheart’s Dance at the Radisson Resort. Assisting them in their efforts and members of the foundation are also Anoushka and Marcelino of Aruba.

On Thursday, March 8, Art Stark, President of FOTH was joined by the board members still on the island in presenting the checks to the various foundations that will benefit from their work this year. Art announced that FOTH members were very well satisfied with the results from their Superbowl Lotteries and the Sweetheart’s Dance, allowing them to donate to a long list of worthy causes.

The diamond room of the Radisson Resort and Casino was the venue for this cheerful task, and representatives of the various agencies expressed heartfelt gratitude for the group’s fundraising efforts. Many of the Aruban foundations, such as the Centro Kibrahacha for the Elderly and Sister Philote, heading Ambiente Feliz, are regularly seen at this annual event, but this year, a fledgling foundation, Mi Por, which sees to the needs of physically handicapped children and their families, were new to the list of charities. The representatives of Mi Por (“I Can”) were particularly heartened by this first donation to their cause, as it “gives us spirit to continue our work.”

As each representative of the various groups came to the podium to accept their donations, they explained a bit for the gathering the work they do, and for which particular project the donations will be used. The scope of foundations that benefit from the funds raised by FOTH has increased over the years, and fifteen organizations were awarded donations this year. They include: The Imeldehof Home for Children, The Edmund Harms Foundation (home care for terminal cancer victims) Funari (for the mentally challenged,) Respeta Mi (fighting child abuse,) Ambiente Nobo (mentally challenged,) Ambiente Feliz (mentally challenged,) AVA (home care for the elderly) Centro Kibrahacha (Social center for the elderly,) Day Care Elderly-Cas Marie, (Alzheimer’s victims,) Bibito Pin, (center for extreme mentally and physically challenged,) Clown Doctors (hospital visitation organization,) Rode Kruis (Red Cross,) PaNos Muchanan (Assisting underprivileged children,) MiPor and Samba (rehab center for addiction.) A final check was presented to Jan Veneman, the Director of CEDE Aruba, an organization that administrates over the foundations and assists in arranging financing for various social projects. Art Stark thanked Jan for working closely with FOTH in their efforts.

In the twenty years that FOTH members have selflessly given of their vacation time to benefit Aruba’s mentally and physically challenged, they have raised over one million U.S. dollars for local charities, assisting them greatly in continuing their important work. An essential part of that success has been the partnership with local media in promoting their events and vendors that have donated goods and services that have been raffled or auctioned to raise funds. The FOTH members wished to offer their gratitude to these various island businesses and individuals that have assisted them. These are:

The News	Aruba Today	Tele Aruba Channel 13+23
Romar Trading	TEC	Playa Liquor
Pepia Est N.V.	ATV Channel 15	Buccaneer Restaurant
Aruba Beach Club	Adventure Golf	Coconut Trading
Chalet Suisse	Matilde	Don Carlo Restaurant
Casa del Mar Beach Resort	De Palm Tours	Econo Car Rental
Driftwood Restaurant	El Gaucho	Hostaria Da’ Vittorio
Economy Car Rental	French Steakhouse	Juggling Fish
Indulgence by the Sea	J&J Unisex Beauty Parlor	Agatha’s - Les Accessories
Jolly Pirates	Little Switzerland	More 4 Less Car Rental
Le Dome	Madame Jeanette	The Promenade
Playa Linda Beach Resort	Penha Perfumes	Quality Apartments
The Pirates Nest	Pinchos	Tierra Del Sol
Rumba	Red Sail Sports	Toyota Car Rental

Texas de Brazil	T.H. Palm & Co.	Sole Mare Restaurant
Tango Restaurant	Westin Aruba Resort	Gandelman Jewelers
Amici's	Tortuga Restaurant	Noble Jewelry
Kay's Jewelers	Colombian Emeralds	Rams
Effy Collection	Kenro Jewelers	Gianni's
Shiva's Gold & Gems	Pearl Gems	Boolchand's
Marina Pirata	La Dolce Vita	Sanaviva Spa
Chefs Table	George Cycle	Blossoms
Turtles Nest	Adventure Car Rental	Taste of Belgium Chocolates
Eva Boutique	Waterfront Crabhouse	La Terraza
Ling & Sons	Maggy's	Intermezzo Day Spa
Fitness Warehouse	Sunset Bistro (Phoenix)	Moomba Beach
Alfredo's Restaurant	Diane Keijzer	Rosalie Klein
Magic FM		
Casa Haime		

The Friends of the Handicapped will close out their 2007 season in Aruba with one last fundraising event. On Thursday, March 15, they will host an evening of bingo in the ballroom of the Aruba Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino. Bingo will begin at 8:00 PM with ten games awarding over 8,000 Aruban florins in prizes, including a final full card game with a prize of 5,000 florins. Entrance and games cards cost twenty florins (\$12.00 U.S.) and can be obtained at the door starting at 5:00 P.M. Proceeds from the event will be included in the donations made in 2008.